

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A content distribution system including a creator terminal, a distribution server and a client terminal, and configured such that said creator terminal provides a content item to said distribution server, and said distribution server stores the provided content item and supplies the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, wherein said creator terminal comprises

content item transmitting means for transmitting a content item for an examining purpose to said distribution server; and

wherein said distribution server comprises[[:] ]

content item storing means for storing the content item for an examining purpose transmitted from the creator terminal;

registration permitting means for permitting creator registration on the basis of a judgment by an operator of the distribution server when the stored content item for an examining purpose is higher than a predetermined level and for transmitting permission for creator registration to said creator terminal;

charge processing means for charging a fee to a user of said client terminal when the content item stored in said distribution server is supplied to said client terminal; and

kickback distribution processing means for kicking distributing a portion of the charged fee back to a registered user of said creator terminal who has provided the content item.

Claim 2 (original): A content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the content item is a piece of music, and said distribution server further comprises copyright processing means for executing processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claims 3 and 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (original): A content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): A content distribution system including a creator terminal, a distribution server and a client terminal, and configured such that said creator terminal provides a content item to said distribution server, and said distribution server stores the provided content item and supplies the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, wherein said distribution server comprises:

tool provision means for providing, in response to a request from said creator terminal, said creator terminal with an authoring tool for converting into a predetermined format the content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A content distribution system according to claim 6, wherein said authoring tool further attaches authentication information for specifying said creator terminal to said converted content item.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): A content distribution system according to claim 6, wherein the content item is a piece of music, and said distribution server further comprises copyright processing means for executing processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): A content distribution system according to claim 6, wherein said distribution server further comprises:

registration means for registering said creator terminal on the basis of information transmitted from said creator terminal before reception of a content item from said creator terminal.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A content distribution system according to claim 9, wherein said transmitted information is a content item for examining purpose, and said registration means registers said creator terminal depending on results of examination of the content item for examining purpose.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A content distribution system according to claim 6, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A content distribution method which is applied to a content distribution system including a creator terminal, a distribution server and a client terminal, and in which a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server is stored in said distribution server, and the content item stored in said distribution server is supplied to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a content item for an examining purpose to said distribution server; and  
storing the content item for an examining purpose transmitted from the creator terminal;  
permitting creator registration on the basis of a judgment by an operator of the distribution server when the stored content item for an examining purpose is higher than a predetermined level;  
transmitting permission for creator registration to said creator terminal;  
charging a fee to a user of said client terminal when the content item stored in said distribution server is supplied to said client terminal; and  
~~kick~~ distributing a portion of the charged fee back to a registered user of said creator terminal who has provided the content item.

Claim 13 (original): A content distribution method according to claim 12, wherein the content item is a piece of music, and said method further comprises the step of causing said distribution server to execute processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claims 14 and 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (original): A content distribution method according to claim 12, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): A content distribution method which is applied to a content distribution system including a creator terminal, a distribution server and a client terminal, and in which a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server is stored in said distribution server, and the content item stored in said distribution server is supplied to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, comprising the step of:

causing said distribution server to provide, in respond to a request transmitted from said creator terminal to said distribution server, said creator terminal with an authoring tool for converting into a predetermined format the content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): A content distribution method according to claim 17, wherein said authoring tool further attaches authentication information for specifying said creator terminal to said converted content item.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): A content distribution method according to claim 17, wherein the content item is a piece of music, and said method further comprises the step of causing said distribution server to execute processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): A content distribution method according to claim 17, further comprising step of causing said distribution server to register said creator terminal on the basis of information transmitted from said creator terminal before reception of a content item from said creator terminal.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): A content distribution method according to claim 20, wherein said transmitted information is a content item for examining purpose, and said registration of creator terminal is permitted depending on results of examination of the content item for examining purpose.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): A content distribution method according to claim 17, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A distribution server which is capable of communicating with a creator terminal and a client terminal and which stores a content item supplied from said creator terminal and distributes the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, comprising:

content item storing means for storing a content item for an examining purpose transmitted from the creator terminal;

registration permitting means for permitting creator registration on the basis of a judgment by an operator of the distribution server when the stored content item for an examining purpose is higher than a predetermined level and for transmitting permission for creator registration to said creator terminal;

charge processing means for charging a fee to a user of said client terminal when the stored content item is supplied to said client terminal; and

kickback distribution processing means for kickback distributing a portion of the charged fee back to a registered user of said creator terminal who has provided the content item.

Claim 24 (original): A distribution server according to claim 23, wherein the content item is a piece of music, and said distribution server further comprises copyright processing means for executing processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claims 25 and 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (original): A distribution server according to claim 23, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): A distribution server which is capable of communicating with a creator terminal and a client terminal and which stores a content item supplied from said creator terminal and distributes the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, comprising:

tool provision means for providing, in response to a request from said creator terminal, said creator terminal with an authoring tool for converting into a predetermined format the content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): A distribution server according to claim 28, wherein said authoring tool further attaches authentication information for specifying said creator terminal to said converted content item.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): A distribution server according to claim 28, wherein the content item is a piece of music, and said distribution server further comprises copyright processing means for executing processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): A distribution server according to claim 28, wherein said distribution server further comprising:

registration means for registering said creator terminal on the basis of information transmitted from said creator terminal before reception of a content item from said creator terminal.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): A distribution server according to claim 31, wherein said transmitted information is a content item for examining purpose, and said registration means registers said creator terminal depending on results of examination of the content item for examining purpose.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): A distribution server according to claim 28, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A content distribution method applied to a distribution server which is capable of communicating with a creator terminal and a client terminal and which stores a content item supplied from said creator terminal and distributes the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, comprising the steps of:  
storing a content item for an examining purpose transmitted from the creator terminal;  
permitting creator registration on the basis of a judgment by an operator of the distribution server when the stored content item for an examining purpose is higher than a predetermined level;  
transmitting permission for creator registration to said creator terminal;  
charging a fee to a user of said client terminal when the stored content item is supplied to said client terminal; and  
~~kick~~ distributing a portion of the charged fee ~~back~~ to a registered user of said creator terminal who has provided the content item.

Claim 35 (original): A content distribution method according to claim 34, wherein the content item is a piece of music, and said method further comprises the step of executing processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claims 36 and 37 (canceled)

Claim 38 (original): A content distribution method according to claim 34, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): A content distribution method applied to a distribution server which is capable of communicating with a creator terminal and a client terminal and which stores a content item supplied from said creator terminal and distributes the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, comprising the step of:

providing, in response to a request transmitted from said creator terminal, said creator terminal with an authoring tool for converting into a predetermined format the content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): A content distribution method according to claim 39, wherein said authoring tool further attaches authentication information for specifying said creator terminal to said converted content item.

Claim 41 (withdrawn): A content distribution method according to claim 39, wherein the content item is a piece of music, and said method further comprises the step of executing processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): A content distribution method according to claim 39, further comprising the step of registering said creator terminal on the basis of information transmitted from said creator terminal before reception of a content item from said creator terminal.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): A content distribution method according to claim 42, wherein said transmitted information is a content item for examining purpose, and said registration of creator terminal is permitted depending on results of examination of the content item for examining purpose.



Claim 44 (withdrawn): A content distribution method according to claim 39, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

Claim 45 (currently amended): A computer readable recording medium on which is recorded a distribution program applied to a distribution server which is capable of communicating with a creator terminal and a client terminal and which realizes processing for storing a content item supplied from said creator terminal and distributing the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, the distribution program executing:

storing a content item for an examining purpose transmitted from the creator terminal;  
permitting creator registration on the basis of a judgment by an operator of the distribution server when the stored content item for an examining purpose is higher than a predetermined level;  
transmitting permission for creator registration to said creator terminal;  
~~processing for~~ charging a fee to a user of said client terminal when the stored content item is supplied to said client terminal; and  
~~processing for kicking~~ distributing a portion of the charged fee ~~back~~ to a registered user of said creator terminal who has provided the content item.

Claim 46 (original): A computer readable recording medium according to claim 45, wherein  
the content item is a piece of music, and  
said distribution program further executes processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claims 47 and 48 (canceled)

Claim 49 (original): A computer readable recording medium according to claim 45, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

Claim 50 (withdrawn): A computer readable recording medium on which is recorded a distribution program applied to a distribution server which is capable of communicating with a creator terminal and a client terminal and which realizes processing for storing a content item supplied from said creator terminal and distributing the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, the distribution program executing:

processing for providing, in response to a request from said creator terminal, said creator terminal with an authoring tool for converting into a predetermined format the content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claim 51 (withdrawn): A computer readable recording medium according to claim 50, wherein said authoring tool further attaches authentication information for specifying said creator terminal to said converted content item.

Claim 52 (withdrawn): A computer readable recording medium according to claim 50, wherein  
the content item is a piece of music, and  
said distribution program further executes processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claim 53 (withdrawn): A computer readable recording medium according to claim 50, wherein said distribution program further executes processing for registering said creator terminal on the basis of information transmitted from said creator terminal before reception of a content item from said creator terminal.

Claim 54 (withdrawn): A computer readable recording medium according to claim 53, wherein  
said transmitted information is a content item for examining purpose, and  
said registration of creator terminal is permitted depending on results of examination of the content item for examining purpose.

Claim 55 (withdrawn): A computer readable recording medium according to claim 50, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

Claim 56 (new): A content distribution system according to claim 1,  
said creator terminal further comprising  
ID number requesting means for requesting the ID number to the distribution server; and  
ID number receiving means for receiving the ID number transmitted from the distribution server and for storing the ID number; wherein  
said content item transmitting means transmits the content item for an examining purpose together with the ID number to said distribution server, and  
said distribution server further comprising:  
ID number allotting means for allotting the ID number to said creator terminal to transmit the ID number in response to the request for the ID number from said creator terminal.

Claim 57 (new): A content distribution system according to claim 1,  
said creator terminal further comprising  
authoring tool requesting means for requesting an authoring tool to said distribution server, the authoring tool being used for converting into a predetermined format the content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server; and  
uploading means for converting content item by using the authoring tool provided by said distribution server to upload the converted content item; and  
said distribution server further comprising  
authoring tool provision means for providing, in response to a request from said creator terminal, an authoring tool to said creator terminal when permission for creator registration is given to said creator terminal.